

COUNTY BOROUGH OF GATESHEAD.



ANNUAL REPORTS
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE
YEAR 1925.

Gateshead :
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To the

HEALTH AND SANITARY COMMITTEE.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Herewith I submit the Annual Report on the health and sanitary condition of the Borough during the year 1925.

The area of the Borough is 3,254 acres.

The population as estimated by the Registrar General is 129,000, an increase of 300 over 1924.

As showing the growth of the Borough it may be interesting to note that in

1801	the population was	8,597
1851	„ „ „	25,570
1901	„ „ „	109,888
1911	„ „ „	116,917
1921	„ „ „	125,142

The birth rate is 24·4 per 1,000 of population and shows a decrease of ·2 per 1,000 compared with last year.

The actual number of births registered this year is 3,152 against 3,170 last year.

The average birth rate for the previous 10 years was 27·6.

The highest birth rates occurred in the North-East Ward 30·2, and the East Central Ward 27·5, whilst the lowest rates occurred in the South Central Ward 12·3, and in the West Ward 14·4.

The death rate is 14·0 per 1,000 of population, against 14·2 per 1,000 last year, the number of deaths being 1,810 against 1833 last year.

The average death rate for the previous 10 years was 16·1.

The highest death rates are recorded in the North East Ward 18·0, and the North Ward 14·4, while the lowest are recorded in the West Ward 7·3 and the West Central Ward 10·3.

The natural increment to the population is 1,342.

The infantile mortality is 108·0 per 1,000 live births, being 5 points above that of last year, which was equal to 103· per 1,000 live births.

Zymotic Death Rate	1·37	per 1,000 of population.	
Average Birth rate previous 10 years	27·6	„ „ „	
Average Death rate previous 10 years	16·1	„ „ „	
Average Zymotic Death rate			
previous 10 years	1·3	„ „ „	
Average Infantile Mortality previous			
10 years	115	per 1,000 live births.	
Number of Infectious Diseases			
notified (excluding Tuberculosis)	1648		
Phthisis	264		} 2086
Other Tubercular Diseases	174		
Notifiable Infectious Diseases			
Incidence Rate	12·7	per 1,000 of Population.	
Phthisis Incidence Rate	2·04	„ „ „	
Other Tubercular Diseases Incidence			
Rate	1·34	„ „ „	
Notifiable Infectious Diseases			
Mortality Rate	·73	„ „ „	
Phthisis Mortality Rate	1·24	„ „ „	
Other Tubercular Diseases			
Mortality Rate	·37	„ „ „	

GEOLOGICAL NOTES.

The Borough of Gateshead covers (irrespective of water) an area of about 3,132 acres.

It is situate on the South side of the Tyne immediately opposite Newcastle. Its lay is very undulating and gradually rises from the river to a considerable height in a Southerly direction, where at Sheriff Hill it is 500 feet above sea level.

From this point the land slopes in all directions, further South to Wrekenton, to the South West to Low Fell, to the South East to Mount Pleasant, to the East to Windy Nook and to the North down to the river passing on its way the Shipcote, Bensham and Teams districts and to the West down to the Teams Gut, which separates it from the Ravensworth Estate.

It has therefore an exceptional contour for efficient drainage and eminently adapted for the Water Carriage System.

From Sheriff Hill it presents many beautiful landscapes and affords numerous situations for houses with a natural restful outlook.

Between Sheriff Hill in a Northerly direction and Deckham lies the Carr Hill District, where the Corporation has built over 438 houses forming a pretty little garden city, the houses being at a good altitude, with a good subsoil and plenty of open space.

From about the centre of the town down to the River Tyne, there are numerous out-of-date dwellings, with marked overcrowding, both of houses and people and showing numerous sanitary defects. Many of these dwellings are being demolished and many condemned to the same process, as soon as other houses can be built to house the displaced tenants.

The Geological formation—

- (1) Sandstone rock which has been extensively quarried at Wrekenton, Sheriff Hill and Carr Hill. This has also been quarried at a greater depth in the Argyle district, and crops out again to the surface in the lower part of High Street, and in the Windmill Hills District.
- (2) Clay forms the greater part of the subsoil on the Eastward and Westward slopes, and has been largely excavated for brick making in the Teams District.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water is supplied by the Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Gateshead Water Co., and may be regarded as excellent in both quality and quantity ; the supply is constant.

Monthly samples are sent to the analyst and the following is an average analysis for the year under review :—

	Parts per 100,000
Total solid matters in solution dried at 100° C.	17·800
Chlorine existing as Chlorides	0·852
Ammonia	0·001
Albuminoid Ammonia.....	0·009
Oxygen absorbed in four hours	0·211
Lead and other poisonous metals	None.
Hardness before boiling, Dr. Clark's Scale, (1° = 1 part Calcium carbonate per 100,000) ...	12·4
Appearance in two foot tube	Faint yellow and clear.
Smell when warmed	None.
Microscopical examination of sediment	Satisfactory.

The Reservoirs with their areas are :—

Whittle Dean	126 acres.
East Hallington	125 „
West Hallington	123 „
Colt Crag	180 „
Little Swinburn	8 „
Catcleugh	265 „

(The collecting area of Catcleugh is 10,330 acres).

As the water falls by gravitation to Gateshead, a pumping station is provided at Askew Road to pump the water to two Reservoirs at the most elevated part of the town.

The working capacity at the pumping station is 5 million gallons per 24 hours with 50·0% stand-by in case of breakdown.

The Reservoirs are situated at—

(a) Carr Hill with an area of $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres and a capacity of 9,858,000 gallons and

(b) Beacon Lough, with an area of one-fifth acre and a capacity of 500,000 gallons. This is of concrete and covered, and supplies Wrekenton and Sheriff Hill districts.

STAPLE INDUSTRIES OF THE TOWN.

Mechanical Engineering.	Pumps, ships' machinery, colliery machinery and general engineering work, boiler making, railway engineering works, foundries.
Electrical Motor Engineering.	
Chemical Works.	Acids, Caustic Soda, Bleaching Powder, etc.
Glass Works.	Bottles, stained glass, etc.
Brick Works.	
Roperies.	Wire Ropes, Colliery winding cables, ordinary ropes and cables of all sizes.
Saw Mills.	
Plate Rolling Mills.	
Gas Works.	
Collieries.	
Paper Mills.	
Nail Works.	
Galvanizing and Tin Plate Works.	
Nut, Bolt and Rivet Works.	

While the above are the active industries in the Borough, many of its inhabitants are employed in the Shipyards and factories of adjoining towns on Tyneside.

A large number find employment at Collieries just outside the Borough, and a further number of its inhabitants have commercial, scholastic, and clerical avocations in the City of Newcastle.

In the majority of these industries the workers work under reasonably healthy conditions.

The following is a list taken from the Census 1921, of the chief occupations followed by the majority of residents in the Borough.

	MALES.	FEMALES	TOTAL.
Metal Workers (including Foundry Workers, Toolmakers, Fitters, Millwrights, etc.)	8816	282	9098
Transport, etc.	5285	273	5558

	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Commercial, Finance and Insurance (excluding Clerks)	2779	2284	5063
Mines and Quarries	4798	4	4802
Personal Service	758	3244	4002
Clerks and Draughtsmen	1919	1380	3299
Builders, Bricklayers, etc.	1598	8	1606
Wearing Apparel Makers	372	1170	1542
Workers in Wood and Furniture ...	1448	50	1498
Warehousemen and Storekeepers ...	673	550	1223
Professional Occupations (including teachers)	537	584	1121
Paper Makers, Printers, etc.	409	443	852
Makers of Bricks, Potteries & Glass	599	167	766
Public Administration	623	111	734
Electrical Apparatus Makers.....	681	4	685
Makers of Food and Drink	357	305	662
Painters, Decorators, etc.	634	3	637
Stationary Engine Drivers	629	—	629
Chemical Processes	433	62	495

WATER CARRIAGE SYSTEM.

In my last report I mentioned that the conversion of Ashpits and Privies, and Ashclosets was about to be commenced.

I am happy to relate that the scheme is being carried out with an expedition beyond all expectations.

Commencement was made on the 16th March in Tennyson Street, and by 23rd November the first scheme of 6,000 conversions had been completed as under :—

1st Area—Sunderland Road East End	1579
2nd Area—Askew Road East	1196
3rd Area—Askew Road West	1579
4th Area—Argyle District	792
5th Area—Park Lane	854

This was followed by a second scheme for 8,000 further conversions and by the end of the year 898 of these had been done, making the grand total of 6,898 for 1925.

I have naturally taken a keen interest in the progress of this work, and while it has been rapid it has been carried out with skill and care and with good material. The foreman, the Sanitary Inspectors and the workmen have worked with loyalty and a desire to do their best for the town, and the manufacturers of the materials have spared neither time or expense to make the undertaking a healthy and economical success.

The Health Committee under the guidance of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman have been anxious to assist in all possible ways, and while all realise the great initial outlay entailed, I feel certain all are convinced that it is one of the greatest health measures Gateshead has ever undertaken and it should be gratifying to the inhabitants of this town to know that to their Corporation, the health of the people stands first.

I do not think it an exaggeration to say that Gateshead has laid its foundation to rank as one of the healthiest working class towns in the Kingdom in the years to come and great credit is due to the men who have had the courage to make the beginning.

Even at this juncture in the course of my visitations I notice a great change in the converted areas. Generally cleaner yards, fewer flies, cleaner back streets with absence of the unsightly liquid faeces oozing from the closet doors, and with it a purer atmosphere.

Last and not least the majority of the tenants state that their homes are sweeter, there is less work in keeping the back premises clean, and wish the change had been instituted years ago.

DISPOSAL OF REFUSE.

The following is a report of the work of the Scavenging Department. The information being supplied by the Superintendent (Mr. Charles Boden) :—

Number of Ashclosets	11614
Number of Ashpits	1086
Number of Ashbins.....	10531

Ashbins are emptied 1 to 6 times per week as necessary.

Ashclosets emptied once per week except in the case of about 500 which are emptied twice per week.

In carrying out the above work, the Corporation vehicles average 27,000 calls per week.

Ashpits are emptied every 4 weeks.

Total quantity of House and Shop refuse collected.....	52,000 tons.
Quantity of Street Sweepings ...	7,000 „
Total	<u>59,000 „</u>

Disposed of as follows :—

Barged to Sea	45,000 tons.
Deposited in Tips	14,000 „

There are about 100 miles of roads and passages in the Borough, and these are swept, some once a week up to 13 times per week, giving a weekly mileage swept of 252 miles.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area	3,132 acres.
Population (Registrar General for Statistical purposes)	129,000
Number of families or separate occupiers	26,317
Rateable Value	£503,091
Sum represented by a penny rate	£1,824 2s. 7d.
Amount of outdoor relief distributed by the Poor Law Guardians for the Parish of Gateshead during the year 1925	£78,126 1s. 5d.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1925.

(1) Births—	TOTAL	MALES	FEMALES
Legitimate	3038	1588	1450
Illegitimate	114	55	59
Birth rate 24.4 per 1,000 of population.			

	TOTAL	MALES	FEMALES
(2) Deaths (nett)	1810	942	868
Death rate 14·0 per 1,000 of population.			

(3) Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth—	
(a) From Sepsis	13
(b) From other causes	10
(4) Deaths of infants under one year per 1,000 births.	
(a) Legitimate	106
(b) Illegitimate	140
(c) Total	108
(5) Deaths from Measles (all ages)	73
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	49
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	44
Influenza	22
Pneumonia all forms	196
Bronchitis	174
Cancer	135
Organic Heart Disease	112

	Notified.			Admitted to Hospital.*			Deaths.		
	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.
Tuberculosis :—									
(a) Pulmonary	264	135	129	46	19	27	161	88	73
(b) Non-Pulmonary	174	101	73	65	34	31	48	25	23

* Union Hospital, Gateshead.

* Children's Hospital, Gateshead.

113 cases of Tuberculosis were admitted for Sanatorium Treatment.

Barrasford	48	Wolsingham	28
Stanhope	12	Stannington	24
Lenham	1		

	Cases Notified	Cases Treated		Vision Unimpaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
		At Home	In Hospital				
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	20	13	5	20	Nil	Nil	Nil

STATISTICS FOR THE COUNTY BOROUGH OF GATESHEAD

FROM 1878 TO 1925 INCLUSIVE.

	Birth Rate.		Death Rate.		Zymotic Rate.		Infantile Mortality.	
1878	...	44.4	...	27.5	...	7.13	...	170
1879	...	41.4	...	21.3	...	2.89	...	132
1880	...	40.4	...	24.4	...	5.65	...	189
1881	...	40.6	...	20.5	...	2.63	...	155
1882	...	40.9	...	24.4	...	3.92	...	178
1883	...	40.1	...	23.7	...	4.13	...	155
1884	...	40.6	...	25.1	...	5.0	...	178
1885	...	39.3	...	20.8	...	2.5	...	155
1886	...	37.0	...	18.7	...	2.7	...	160
1887	...	38.4	...	21.2	...	3.1	...	160
1888	...	36.2	...	17.0	...	1.6	...	144
1889	...	35.9	...	21.4	...	3.4	...	174
1890	...	37.3	...	20.6	...	2.2	...	156
1891	...	38.5	...	23.2	...	3.3	...	181
1892	...	36.9	...	19.2	...	1.8	...	152
1893	...	36.3	...	19.3	...	3.3	...	171
1894	...	34.2	...	17.7	...	2.6	...	152
1895	...	34.7	...	18.4	...	2.5	...	187
1896	...	36.0	...	19.5	...	3.1	...	175
1897	...	35.8	...	18.6	...	2.2	...	173
1898	...	35.4	...	20.7	...	3.1	...	209
1899	...	36.5	...	18.9	...	2.0	...	176
1900	...	36.4	...	19.2	...	1.7	...	167
1901	...	36.7	...	21.8	...	4.3	...	196
1902	...	37.4	...	18.2	...	2.2	...	137
1903	...	36.9	...	17.5	...	2.1	...	175
1904	...	36.0	...	19.7	...	3.2	...	138
1905	...	34.8	...	16.7	...	2.1	...	163
1906	...	34.5	...	17.8	...	3.3	...	139
1907	...	33.7	...	16.9	...	1.8	...	136
1908	...	34.5	...	16.7	...	2.2	...	149
1909	...	32.5	...	14.2	...	1.1	...	111
1910	...	31.0	...	14.9	...	2.3	...	151
1911	...	30.2	...	16.4	...	2.6	...	137
1912	...	27.6	...	15.9	...	1.9	...	105
1913	...	29.2	...	14.7	...	1.2	...	123
1914	...	31.4	...	18.2	...	2.5	...	150
1915	...	30.1	...	19.2	...	2.9	...	146
1916	...	28.7	...	17.6	...	1.4	...	129
1917	...	25.1	...	17.2	...	1.6	...	132
1918	...	25.9	...	18.9	...	1.7	...	122
1919	...	26.4	...	16.7	...	1.3	...	115
1920	...	32.8	...	14.6	...	.9	...	111
1921	...	29.8	...	14.4	...	1.3	...	106
1922	...	26.9	...	15.4	...	.7	...	105
1923	...	26.3	...	12.8	...	1.24	...	89
1924	...	24.6	...	14.2	...	.7	...	103
1925	...	24.4	...	14.0	...	1.37	...	108

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

At the Bensham Settlement 97 Welfare Clinics were held, and 96 at Greenesfield House, the Welfare Medical Officer (Dr. Brennan) attended once a week at each centre.

At Greenesfield House there were 5,252 attendances :—

0—1 years	3971
1—5 years	1230
Expectant Mothers	51

Average attendance 54·7 per session.

Medical Officer's consultations total 919 ; average 19·0 per session.

At Bensham Settlement there were 4,707 attendances.

0—1 years	3490
1—5 years	1171
Expectant Mothers	46

Average attendance 48·5 per session.

Medical Officer's consultations total 914, average 18·6 per session.

Every infant receiving dried milk is required to be brought to the welfare clinic at regular intervals so that progress may be noted.

Any infant showing insufficient progress is referred to the Medical Officer.

During the year the Health Visitors made the following visits :

First Visits (Infants under 1 year)	3125
Revisits	6498
Visits to children 1—5 years	3186
Visits and revisits to cases Ophthalmia Neonatorum, Puerperal Fever, Pneumonia, Diarrhoea, &c.	493
Visits to cases of Tuberculosis	2247
Visits to Midwives	71
Visits to Expectant Mothers	428
Various	10

Total 16058

The manner in which the work done in this department has increased is revealed by the fact that 1,263 more visits were paid by the Health Visitors than during last year. The visits of these officers are welcomed by the mothers and indeed looked for with a very different feeling which existed at the initiation of this service when they were looked upon as officious interference. One factor stands out pre-eminent, viz. :—the vast prevention of blindness amongst infants the subjects of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

The voluntary workers at Bensham Settlement continue to give great assistance, their keenness being largely contributory to the accomplishment of much useful work.

The Sub-Committee of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee continues to meet regularly to investigate the applications of the aided milk supply and always gives careful consideration to the circumstances of each case.

During the year 40,958 lbs. of dried milk were distributed, 8,657 being at cost price, and 32,301 lbs. at rates below, according to scale of income.

MIDWIVES.

29 midwives notified their intention to practice in the Borough during the year ; only 21 of these did actual midwifery.

Of these 28 are qualified by Training and Examination and 1 registered (*i.e.*, admitted to Register by virtue of practice prior to 1902).

Seven removed from area after practising a short time.

Of the 2,880 infants born alive and registered in the Borough the midwives conducted 1,592 cases with 1,610 infants, a percentage of 55·9 of total births.

Single Cases (born alive)	1573
Sets of Twins (18) born alive	36
Set of Twins with a death (1)	1
	1610

In addition they attended :—

Still Births	51
Abortions	3
	54

In 160 cases a doctor and midwife were engaged. In 165 cases (where a doctor was not previously engaged) medical aid was called for the mother or the infant, and in addition aid was summoned for both mother and child in 5 instances.

In 124 instances the medical aid was for the mother :—

Malpresentation	12
Contracted Pelvis	6
Miscarriage	4
Locked Twins	1
Obstructed Labour	2
Prolapse of Cord	2
Uterine Inertia	41
Ante Partum Haemorrhage	3
Post Partum Haemorrhage	5
Retained Placenta	4
Eclampsia	2
Ruptured Perineum	16
Rise of Temperature	14
Hydramnios	1
Collapse	2
Mental Condition	1
Debility	1
Chest Trouble	2
Slight Paralysis	1
Severe Abdominal Pain	2
General Oedema	1
Varicose Veins	1

In 51 instances the medical aid was for the infant.

Premature Birth	10
Congenital Debility	15
Asphyxia	1
Discharging Eyes	10
Anencephalus	3
Deformities and Allied Conditions	4
Persistent Vomiting	1
Suppression of Urine	1
Convulsions	2
Found dead in bed	2
Still Born	2

With few exceptions the midwives have carried out their duties efficiently and have paid close attention to the Rules and Regulations of the Central Midwives Board.

The midwives are now in the habit of seeking advice and instructions from this office whenever they meet with difficulties, with the result that a greater efficiency is manifest and vexatious trouble is yearly becoming less and less.

MATERNAL DEATHS.

23 women died from conditions consequent on Parturition.

1 of these occurred at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-on-Tyne,

11 at the Princess Mary Maternity Hospital, Newcastle-on-Tyne,

3 at the Union Hospital, Gateshead, the other 8 dying at home.

The various conditions were :—

Septicaemia	13
Nephritis	3
Influenza	1
Pulmonary Embolism	2
Collapse	1
Ante Partum Haemorrhage	1
Hyperemesis Gravidarum	2

8 of the above cases were primarily attended by midwives, and in all cases the midwives called in medical aid promptly.

All cases of Sepsis were investigated as far as was reasonable.

It is fairly obvious that while several of these deaths on account of other organic trouble could not be avoided several might be prevented by due care and rigid cleanliness in conducting the case. It is not right, however, to assume that in every instance the cause lies with the conductor of the confinement, for often the mother and her surroundings are very unclean. It follows then that women about to meet this serious call must be taught the necessity of absolute cleanliness before, at, and after

the confinement, and this is being largely met by advice given at the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics and advice given at the homes by the Health Visitors.

An Ante-Natal Clinic will be commenced in 1926 and detailed enquiries made in all cases of maternal deaths, except those occurring in institutions previously named. We will, however, glean as far as practicable the possible causes in these cases also,

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following numbers were notified during the year :—

	1925	1924
Smallpox	87	—
Scarlet Fever	391	429
Diphtheria	137	124
Typhoid Fever	4	6
Puerperal Fever	9	4
Erysipelas	56	43
Pneumonia	178	133
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	20	15
Chicken Pox	759	516
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	—	4
Encephalitis Lethargica	7	13
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	—	1
Malaria	—	—
Total	1648	1288
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	264	238
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	174	123
	438	361

Except in five diseases where there was a decrease, Scarlet Fever 38, Typhoid Fever 2, Anterior Poliomyelitis 4, Encephalitis Lethargica 6, and Cerebro Spinal Meningitis 1, there was an increase in all the other notifiable diseases as compared with last year.

Smallpox	87
Diphtheria	13
Puerperal Fever	5
Erysipelas	13
Pneumonia	45
Chicken Pox	243
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	5

making the total 411 in excess of last year.

SMALLPOX.

The first case was that of a woman aged 57, notified on 28th February, 1925, and residing in Sheriff Hill. In the course of examining the inmates of the house, her daughter aged 23 years was also found to have the disease.

The next two cases did not come to our knowledge until the 30th March, 1925. Investigation showed that the disease had gone through several members of this family and were undoubtedly the infectors of our first two cases.

Cases 3 and 4 appeared to be infected by a member of the family, who acted as day girl at a house where the mistress had evidently had an undetected mild attack.

The 5th case was notified from a doctor's surgery on the 16th April and infection was traced to cases Nos. 3 and 4.

Case No. 6 I was unable to trace further than that between 2 and 3 weeks previously she had sat in a public omnibus next to a man who had spots on his face and hands. I cannot of course swear whether or not he was suffering from Smallpox as I never saw him.

Case No. 7 was traced to an adjoining district.

Throughout our total of 87 cases contact was established in nearly every case, and outside districts certainly played their part in keeping the outbreak going here as several cases were traced to contact outside the Borough.

At the end of November there were two cases from a house in Backfield Street and there an examination of the inmates revealed the fact that a child attending Prior Street School had

had an undetected attack. This led to an examination of all the school children at Prior Street School and a comb out of the houses in the Park Lane district. The result was the finding of a few cases followed by a large number notified in the usual way.

Unfortunately some cases occurred at the Workhouse through a man entering in an infectious condition from another district. The Resident Medical Officer had the assistance of the Health Department and the Institution was soon cleared.

A table follows giving the ages of the patients and showing the number unvaccinated which was 75·0%.

The youngest vaccinated person attacked was 23 years of age. She was vaccinated in infancy and her case was extremely mild. Others, however, who were infected from her had serious attacks.

The majority of cases have been mild, but several have been very ill and left with scarring. A great cause for concern has been the effect on the eyes as several patients had pocks on the eye-ball mostly on the sclerotic portion, and others on the cornea. These latter patients have given great anxiety on account of the imminent danger of impairment of vision, but fortunately all have done well.

The Health Committee gave me power to call in an Ophthalmic Surgeon whenever I deemed it necessary and in severe cases I sought his advice.

Despite all said against it, my practical and long experience in dealing with Smallpox impresses more and more on me that the great preventor of the disease is vaccination and whatever steps may be taken with regard to primary vaccination, there should be compulsion on all contacts who are in a fit state to be vaccinated.

The inconvenience caused to a family and their co-workers, together with the effect on industry and commerce and the cost entailed to a municipality in combating the disease, are points which call for consideration by persons who know the disease and know how to deal with it.

I would like to specially mention the energy thrown into this outbreak by the Staffs of the Health Department and the

Hospitals, and the Officers of the Board of Guardians, and the promptness with which some of the practitioners (not all) have informed me of actual and suspected cases.

It seems scarcely necessary to mention that thorough disinfection of the houses has been carried out—that contacts have been hunted up and dealt with and the general procedure I have so often repeated to my Health Committee.

One matter I cannot pass without reference, viz., the help and guidance received from the Ministry of Health and the close co-operation of the Health Officials of the sister Borough—the City of Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

SMALLPOX CASES NOTIFIED DURING 1925.

	Total.	Males.	Females.	Years 0—1.	Years 1—5.	Years 5—10.	Years 10—15.	Years 15—20.	Years 20—25.	Years 25—30.	Years 30—35.	Years 35—40.	Years 40—45.	Years 45—50.	Years 50—55.	Years 55—60.	Years 60—65.	Years 65—70.	North Ward.	North East Ward.	North West Ward.	Central Ward.	East Central Ward.	South Central Ward.	West Central Ward.	East Ward.	South Ward.	West Ward.	Workhouse.
February ...	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
March ...	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
April ...	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
May ...	4	3	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
June ...	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
July ...	9	6	3	—	—	1	—	3	3	1	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
August ...	12	7	5	1	1	2	—	1	2	1	1	1	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
September ...	12	7	5	—	—	1	2	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
October ...	12	8	4	—	1	1	2	4	—	—	2	—	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
November...	5	2	3	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
December	25	12	13	—	1	7	6	2	2	2	—	—	1	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	7	2	9	—	1	—	—	3	—
Total ...	87	49	38	1	3	13	12	15	10	7	3	1	6	5	5	5	1	—	13	10	11	5	26	—	3	1	6	5	7
Total Un- vaccinated	66	36	30	1	3	13	12	15	9	7	2	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Vacc. 1 scar	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
" 2 "	13	6	7	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	4	3	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
" 3 "	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
" 4 "	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Vacc.	21	13	8	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	5	4	4	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

P.S.—88 cases admitted to Hospital.

One case, No. 68 in Smallpox Register, was not counted as Gateshead case. Already counted as Ryton case.

Deaths from the seven chief Zymotic Diseases :—

	1925	1924
Small Pox	—	—
Measles	73	—
Scarlet Fever	6	1
Diphtheria and Membraneous Croup	5	14
Whooping Cough	49	30
Enteric Fever	1	—
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	44	48
	178	93

Giving a Zymotic Death Rate of 1·37 per 1,000 of population against ·72 last year.

Deaths from Respiratory Diseases other than Phthisis totalled 393 against 399 last year.

	TOTAL.	MALES.	FEMALES.
Bronchitis	174	92	82
Broncho Pneumonia	131	66	65
Pneumonia (all other forms)	65	42	23
Pleurisy	5	3	2
Asthma	4	—	4
Empyema	2	—	2
Myxoedema	1	—	1
Laryngitis	6	4	2
Other Causes	5	3	2

There is an increase in the number of deaths from Heart troubles as compared with last year, 151 against 138.

119 are due to structural changes, males 48, females 71.

32 are due to functional disturbances, males 17, females 15.

From Arterio Sclerosis and allied conditions 37 deaths were registered, 22 males and 15 females, and from blood conditions 5 females.

Excluding 26 deaths from convulsions, 10 males and 16 females, 138 deaths, 72 males and 66 females, were registered from diseases of the Brain and Nervous System, against 184 last year and 152 in 1923.

From Cancer 135 deaths were registered, 66 males and 69 females, against 134 last year and 136 in 1923.

There were 59 inquests held in the Borough during the year against 41 last year and 59 in 1923. There were 88 uncertified deaths against 72 last year and 61 in 1923.

REPORT ON TUBERCULOSIS.

BY THE TUBERCULOSIS OFFICER.

The following report is a "Survey" Report as defined by the Ministry of Health and is therefore more detailed than the ordinary intermediate report as presented in previous years.

PRIMARY NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED DURING 1925.

During the year there were notified to the Medical Officer of Health 264 new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 174 new cases of Other Tuberculous Diseases. This gives a total of 438 as against 361 in 1924, and shews an increase of 26 Pulmonary and 51 Non-Pulmonary cases.

The figures for the 5 years under survey are as follows :—

1921	Pulmonary	357	Non-Pulmonary	154	Total	511
1922	"	354	"	155	"	509
1923	"	244	"	99	"	343
1924	"	238	"	123	"	361
1925	"	264	"	174	"	438

There was a considerable drop in the number of notifications in 1923 and 1924, and it is difficult to account satisfactorily for this. Fluctuations in the notification rate have been noted, however, in other years previous to the period under review. As the figures are comparatively small compared with those for the country as a whole it is unsafe to attempt to generalise from them. There were on the notification register at the end of the year 1,166 cases of Pulmonary and 748 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis giving a total of 1,914.

Of the total 438 cases notified during the year 62 were notified by the Tuberculosis Officer and 79 by private practitioners after consultation so that 32·2% of the cases were seen by the Tuberculosis Officer prior to notification.

Details of age and ward distribution will be found in Table No. 5 Notifiable Diseases.

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS DURING 1925.

During the year there were registered 161 deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, giving a rate of 1·24 per 1,000, 20 deaths from Tuberculous Meningitis, giving a rate of 0·15 per 1,000 and 28 from other forms of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis, giving a rate of 0·21 per 1,000.

The total Tuberculosis Death Rate was 1·62 per 1,000 of population, and the total deaths were 209, a decrease of 25 on the previous year.

Figures for the 5 years in the period under review are as follows :—

1921	Pulmonary	138	Other forms	70	Total	208	Rate	1·63
1922	„	168	„	65	„	233	„	1·83
1923	„	148	„	48	„	196	„	1·53
1924	„	176	„	58	„	234	„	1·81
1925	„	161	„	48	„	209	„	1·62

Particulars of age and ward distribution will be found in Table No. 6 Analysis of Deaths.

Further details of the New Cases and Deaths are given in the appended table as required by the Ministry of Health.

NEW CASES.					DEATHS.			
Age	Pulmonary.		Non Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non Pulmonary.	
Periods.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
0— 1...	—	—	2	2	—	—	1	1
1— 5...	13	6	26	23	3	3	6	11
5—10...	19	16	34	13	3	4	4	5
10—15...	12	18	12	23	1	9	3	3
15—20...	14	15	10	6	6	6	5	1
20—25...	15	16	5	7	15	10	1	2
25—35...	23	27	6	2	19	18	—	—
35—45...	15	19	4	5	17	8	1	—
45—55...	22	9	2	—	12	9	2	—
55—65...	4	7	1	—	6	3	1	—
65 and up	6	2	1	—	6	3	1	—
Totals ...	143	135	103	81	88	73	25	23

These figures include all primary notifications and also any other new cases coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year.

Of the total Tuberculosis deaths 23 or 11·0% were not notified before death. Of these 12 were due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 5 to Tuberculous Meningitis and the remainder to other forms of the disease. This is a considerable improvement on previous years as will be seen by the following figures :—

1921.....	37·5%	un-notified deaths.
1922.....	36·0%	„ „
1923.....	31·1%	„ „
1924.....	29·9%	„ „
1925.....	11·0%	„ „

This great drop in the proportion of cases dying without having been notified previously is undoubtedly due to a letter sent to the general practitioners in the town by the Medical Officer of Health in January, 1925, drawing attention to the fact that Circular 549 of the Ministry of Health required him to investigate all non-notified deaths, a copy of Paragraph 5 (1) of the Circular being appended.

Analysis of these 23 cases shews the following reason for non-notification :—

Thought to be previously notified	9
Locum tenens in charge	4
Too short attendance	5
Doubt about diagnosis	1
Certified by Coroner or uncertified	3
Doctor did not wish Health Visitor to call...	1

The following table gives details of the interval between notification and death in the cases registered after notification had been performed at some previous date.

Died under 1 week from notification	11
„ from 1—4 weeks of notification.....	37
„ between 1 and 3 months from notification	37
„ „ 3 and 6 „ „	10
„ „ 6 and 12 „ „	22
„ „ 1 and 2 years „ „	18
„ „ 2 and 3 „ „	12
„ „ 3 and 4 „ „	13
„ over 4 years from notification	13

These figures refer to the deaths before correction for inward and outward transfer, and 15 outward transferable deaths are not included.

From the above table it will be seen that 117 or 59·7% of the total deaths died within a year of notification.

There is apparently no evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the district other than that which obtains in the Kingdom generally with regard to sedentary occupations under unhygienic surroundings.

The age period from 20 to about 35 years of age seems to be the most dangerous and many cases of acute disease are found in both males and females at this time.

TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY.

The Tuberculosis Dispensary is a specially constructed building in the grounds of Greenesfield House where the Health Department is housed, and was brought into use in the early summer of 1921. It comprises a waiting room with two dressing boxes leading into the examination room occupied by the doctor, laboratory, dispensary used for the issuing of malt and oil, etc., rooms for the nurse and clerk, and the usual conveniences. No medicines are supplied at the dispensary, which is not so much a centre for treatment as a clearing house and centre for supervision, observation and diagnosis. Its proximity to the Health and the School Medical Departments enables close co-operation to be maintained with these branches of the service.

Facilities for X-ray examination would greatly enhance the value of the Dispensary as a diagnostic centre.

During the year 637 patients (including contacts) were examined for the first time and these together with 847 old cases made 4,664 attendances.

146 contacts were examined and of these 5 were found to be definitely tuberculous at the first examination and 38 were placed under observation, 8 of whom were subsequently notified.

Of these 637 patients the result of examination was as follows :

Tuberculous	293
Doubtful & Pretuberculous	70
Non-tuberculous	274
	637

On the 31st December, 1925, there were on the Dispensary Register 894 adults and 619 children under 15 years of age.

SPUTUM EXAMINATIONS.

454 specimens of sputum were examined in the Dispensary, 103 of which contained tubercle bacilli (22·6%).

CO-OPERATION WITH SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE.

Close co-operation exists between the Tuberculosis Dispensary and the School Medical Service. A large number of delicate and

pretuberculous children are kept under observation either at the Dispensary or School Clinic and frequent communications regarding these children pass between the departments. The School Dentist attends to all Tuberculous children found by the Tuberculosis Officer to be in need of dental treatment.

The following is a brief synopsis of Tuberculous and Pre-tuberculous children known to the Dispensary and School Clinic Staffs :—

	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTALS
Infectious Pulmonary and Glandular Tuberculosis	7	15	22
Non-infectious but active Pulmonary and Glandular Tuberculosis.....	157	156	313
Delicate or Pretuberculous children ...	279	254	533
Active Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis...	71	58	129

A large number of the children under observation are found to be suffering from the effects of Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids, and these cases are now referred to the Gateshead Children's Hospital for operative treatment under arrangements made by the Local Education Authority. Marked improvement in the condition of the respiratory system is usually observed after operation.

CO-OPERATION WITH PRIVATE PRACTITIONERS.

Close co-operation also exists between the Dispensary and the private practitioners in the town and of the 491 new cases (excluding contacts) 175 were referred by their own doctor to the Tuberculosis Officer for opinion and 79 of these were subsequently notified.

The treatment of Insured Persons, except when in residential institutions, is carried out by their panel doctors and periodical Domiciliary Reports are furnished to the Tuberculosis Officer.

After examination of a case sent up by a Private Practitioner or occasionally during the time the case is under observation or supervision at the Dispensary, a letter giving relevant details is sent by the Tuberculosis Officer to the practitioner concerned.

On December 31st there were 414 insured persons on the Dispensary register and 205 of these were receiving domiciliary

treatment ; the remainder were not requiring active treatment for the time being, many of them being at work.

The work for the Ministry of Pensions under Section 22a of Memo. 30 T. takes up one session per week, and 414 certificates and reports were furnished on the result of examinations of tuberculous ex-service men in receipt of pensions for that disability.

CO-OPERATION WITH HOSPITALS.

As many of the patients attending the Dispensary are receiving treatment from one or other of the Hospitals in the district they are frequently referred to the Tuberculosis Officer from these institutions and a certain proportion of the new cases are brought to his notice by the hospital authorities either by notification or by direct reference.

CARE AND AFTER CARE.

In the absence of a Care Committee much work is done in the way of giving advice and help in various directions by the Dispensary Staff. It is hoped that a Care Committee will shortly be in existence. With reference to the poor housing of many of the patients attending the Dispensary much help has been afforded by the Housing Committee on the representation of the Tuberculosis Officer that the case is urgent. More than a dozen families have been accommodated in new houses on the Council's Building Estate at Sheriff Hill.

Several patients entering sanatorium have been assisted with clothing (from the Durham County Needlework Guild, per the Hon. Agnes Liddell and from other friends) and letters of recommendation have been obtained for the Gateshead Children's Hospital, the Poor Childrens' Holiday Association, etc.

Nothing so far has been attempted in the way of Home Nursing other than the advantages accruing from the periodical visits of the Health Visitor.

EXTRA NOURISHMENT.

Cow's milk is supplied for periods of a few months to patients awaiting or returned from Sanatorium in cases where it is expected that some measure of working capacity may be regained. In the

case of children Malt and Cod Liver Oil and Dried Milk are supplied and in most instances the benefit gained by their administration can be seen.

EMPLOYMENT OF TUBERCULOUS PERSONS.

In the present state of general unemployment it is difficult to obtain suitable employment for Tuberculous persons, but the attention of the Local Labour Exchange is called to suitable cases by the Tuberculosis Officer, especially in the case of ex-service patients.

In this connection it may be noted that no cases are known to the Medical Officer of Health or Tuberculosis Officer where a Tuberculous person is employed in the milk trade. No action therefore has been necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

The question of Surgical Tuberculosis is still in a most unsatisfactory position and such cases have to be referred to voluntary institutions. Many of the cases require treatment on Sanatorium lines in addition to the operative help provided by these hospitals and in many instances operation might be avoided altogether if prolonged treatment could be given in a sanatorium or convalescent home. The question is bound up with that of orthopaedic work as a whole and it is hoped that a scheme may be inaugurated in the near future which will deal with the tuberculous cripple together with those crippled by other causes. Such a scheme is recognised by the Board of Education as of some urgency in the case of children attending school.

DENTAL TREATMENT.

There are no arrangements at present for affording Dental Treatment to Tuberculous persons other than that provided by the School Medical Service through the School Dentist for children of school age and that provided by certain approved societies for their insured members.

Dental defects are as frequent in Tuberculous patients as in the general population and their correction or amelioration undoubtedly prevents the secondary infection, which aggravates the disease and relieves the indigestion due to faulty mastication, which is a factor in the subnormal nutrition of these cases.

HOME VISITING.

The Health Visitors and Tuberculosis Nurse paid 486 first visits and 1,864 revisits, a total of 2,350 visits to the patients' homes during the year and the Tuberculosis Officer 80 visits in special cases.

These visits are productive of much good and usually are greatly appreciated. Advice is given on matters of hygiene, nursing, etc., and any deleterious circumstances are reported to the Tuberculosis Officer.

The following table gives a summary of the sanitary defects reported to the Sanitary Inspector's Department (49 premises, 52 defects).

TYPE OF DEFECT.	NO.	ACTION TAKEN.
1. Dampness due to defective roof, walls, spouting, etc.	28	22 remedied, 3 Notice served, 1 referred to Borough Surveyor 1 in condemned area, 1 no action taken
2. Other structural defects in houses.....	13	9 remedied, 2 notice served, 1 referred to Borough Surveyor 1 provided with new house on Housing Estate,
3. Defective Ash or Waterclosets and middens or nuisance from same	4	2 remedied, 1 notice served, 1 left for closet conversion scheme

TYPE OF DEFECT.	NO.	ACTION TAKEN.
4. Drains choked or defective.....	3	2 remedied, 1 tenant's own fault.
5. Defective paving, etc.	3	1 remedied, 1 notice served, 1 referred to Borough Surveyor
6. Various other defects and nuisances	1	1 remedied.

52

After the death of an infectious case and also in most cases on removal to Hospital or Sanatorium the house is disinfected by the disinfecter attached to the Staff of the Health Department.

The following figures are of interest with regard to the housing and sleeping accommodation of the newly notified cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

223 cases were visited in which full particulars are available and 58 were found to be occupying a separate bedroom (26%).

37 occupied a separate bed with others in the room.

Of 128 cases occupying the same bed as other persons—

80 had one other person in bed with them ;

38 had 2 other persons, and

10 had 3 or more.

These figures are rather less favourable than in 1924, when out of 194 cases investigated 55 had a separate bedroom (28%).

There is still too much overcrowding and possibility of infection of others as will be seen by the following analysis of the 223 aforementioned cases.

TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS IN BEDROOM (including Patient).

Patient alone	58
Two in bedroom	64
3 " "	51
4 " "	28
5 " "	10
6 " "	7
7 " "	3
8 " "	2

223

Of these 223 cases the total housing accommodation was as follows :—

- 36 occupied one room tenement.
- 63 occupied 2 rooms.
- 59 occupied 3 rooms, and only
- 65 occupied houses with four rooms or over.

As usual several instances of gross overcrowding were observed. The housing problem is so vitally bound up with the problem of the prevention of Tuberculosis that as long as the populace continue to live under conditions of overcrowding with all its attendant evils so will the disease continue to spread by direct infection of the other members of a tuberculous household. In this connection it may be remarked that no action has been taken under the PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925, Sect. 62 during the year. One instance was discovered of an advanced case living in a caravan with others but he was obviously in extremis and died very shortly after. The provision of accommodation for 36 beds at Whinney House for advanced and observation cases will help to segregate a few of the infectious cases but it is to be feared that this will be a very small help in the aggregate and it is to be hoped that the full scheme for the provision of about 80 or 90 beds at this place may be proceeded with at no very distant date.

SANATORIUM TREATMENT.

The number of beds ordinarily available for the residential treatment of Gateshead patients is as follows :—

Barrasford Sanatorium, Ex-Service men.....	10
Stanhope Sanatorium, Insured Males	7
Wolsingham Sanatorium, Insured Females.....	2
Stanhope or Wolsingham Uninsured Males or Females	2
Stannington Sanatorium, Children.....	20
	—
	41
	—

This total has been increased from time to time as found necessary and when beds are available.

TABLE SHEWING THE CONDITION AT END OF 1925 OF PATIENTS DISCHARGED FROM SANATORIA
DURING THE PRECEDING FIVE YEARS.

YEAR	NUMBER OF PATIENTS DISCHARGED FROM SANATORIA.			CONDITION AT END OF 1925.										
				SPUTUM POSITIVE.					SPUTUM NEGATIVE.					
				Males.	Females.	Total.	Quiescent or Arrested.	Improved.	No Material Improvement or Worse.	Dead.	Removed or Lost Sight of.	Quiescent or Arrested.	Improved.	No Material Improvement or Worse.
1921.....	93	15	108	—	12	13	20	—	6	28	3	9	12	5
1922.....	118	45	163	1	22	21	33	1	10	43	5	5	8	14
1923.....	114	39	153	—	15	22	34	2	4	52	9	9	2	4
1924.....	101	37	138	2	9	30	32	1	9	38	8	3	3	3
1925.....	79	38	117	—	13	35	18	4	5	31	5	2	1	3
Total	505	174	679	3	71	121	137	8	34	192	30	28	26	29
Received treat- ment in previous years	141	9	150	1	20	46	15	1	1	44	8	2	4	8
NETT CASES ...	364	165	529	2	51	75	122	7	33	148	22	26	22	21

The following table gives particulars of the cases undergoing treatment during the year :—

			In Institu- tions on 1st Jan., 1925.	Admitted during 1925	Discharged during 1925	Died in Institu- tions.	In Institu- tions on Dec. 31st, 1925
No. of Patients	Adults	Males	17	57	62	—	12
		Females	6	28	27	—	7
	Children	Males	9	11	13	—	7
		Females	11	13	11	—	13
Observation Cases	Adults	Males	1	4	5	—	—
Total ...			44	113	118	—	39

The immediate result of Sanatorium Treatment is shewn in the following Table :—

Classification.	Condition on Discharge.	DURATION OF RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT.								
		Under 3 ms.			3—6 ms.			6—12 ms.		
		M.	F.	CH.	M.	F.	CH.	M.	F.	CH.
T. B. Minus	Quiescent	—	—	—	1	2	3	1	—	2
	Improved	1	—	—	8	4	8	1	—	7
	No material improvement	2	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
T.B. Plus Group 1	Improved	—	—	—	3	—	—	1	—	—
	No material improvement	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
T.B. Plus Group 2.	Improved	2	—	—	26	8	—	—	—	—
	No material improvement	1	1	—	5	7	1	—	—	1
T.B. Plus Group 3	Improved	1	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—
	No material improvement	2	1	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
Observation Cases		Under 1 w			1-4 weeks.			over 4 wks		
	Tuberculous	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Non-Tuberculous	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—
		Total								
		117								

BLIND PERSONS ACT.

The following Blind Persons resident in the Borough were on the register on 31st March, 1926 :—

YEARS.	TOTAL.	MALES.	FEMALES.
0— 5	1	—	1
5—16	13	7	6
16—21	7	4	3
21—30	17	7	10
30—40	7	6	1
40—50	20	9	11
50—60	27	18	9
60—70	32	18	14
Over 70	22	12	10
—	—	—	—
	146	81	65

In addition there are in
Gateshead Poor Law

Institution ...	12	10	2
Stannington Asylum	3	2	1
Grand Total	161	93	68

	TOTAL.	MALES.	FEMALES.
Employed	34	22	12
Under Training	5	2	3
Unemployable (includes Housewives, Street Musicians and Beggars)	83	44	39
Independent Means	3	3	—
No Training but trainable	7	3	4
	132	74	58

On account of our co-operation with the Schools and Workshops for the Blind in Newcastle and the Home Teaching Society for the Blind, the requirements of the Act are met in a satisfactory manner.

VENEREAL CLINIC.

ROYAL VICTORIA INFIRMARY, NEWCASTLE.

Number of Gateshead persons dealt with during 1925.

	Number of persons dealt with who were previously under treatment.	Number of persons dealt with during the year for the first time.
Syphilis	76	100
Soft Chancre	4	18
Gonorrhoea	99	179
Syphilis and Gonorrhoea ...	—	—
Conditions other than Venereal	18	46
Total	197 M. 124 F. 73	343 M. 259 F. 84

Total attendances of all patients during the year at the
Out-patient Clinic 10489

Aggregate number of "In-patient days" of treatment
during the year 328

	TOTAL	M.	F.
No. of persons who ceased to attend Clinic before completing course of treatment...	221	154	67
No. of persons transferred to other centres	3	2	1
No. of persons discharged after completion of treatment	128	109	19
No. of persons under treatment on 1/1/26.....	188	118	70
Pathological Examinations			404
Examination for Wasserman re-action			497

In addition to the above 9 Gateshead persons were treated.
at the following Clinics :—

Sunderland	2
South Shields	1
Greenwich	5
Tynemouth	1

SHERIFF HILL HOSPITAL.

286 cases were admitted :—

	TOTAL.	MALES.	FEMALES.
Scarlet Fever	171	71	100
Diphtheria	11	2	9
Small Pox	88	50	38
Chicken Pox	3	1	2
Enteric Fever	2	—	2
Small Pox contacts for observation	11	6	5
	286	130	156

LABORATORY.

Diphtheria Swabs and Sputum for Tubercle Bacilli are all done at our own Laboratory and all other necessary work is done at the Durham College of Medicine, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

	Positive.	Negative.	Doubtful.	Total.
Diphtheria Swabs	32	32	16	80
Sputum for Tubercle Bacilli	103	349	2	454
Widal Reaction for Typhoid and Para-Typhoid	—	6	—	6

A stock of Diphtheria Antitoxin is kept at the Health Office and any other Sera or Antitoxins that are needed in an emergency are quickly obtained.

The quantity of Diphtheria Antitoxin given to Medical Practitioners and that used at the Hospital amounted to 336 vials of 2,000 units each.

6 vials of Tetanus Serum were issued.

NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS, AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

Gateshead Poor Law Hospital.

The Children's Hospital, Dryden Road.

The Dispensary, West Street, having a Chief Medical Officer and an Assistant.

The Gateshead Nursing Association, Coatsworth Road, provides nurses for General District work. Arrangements have been made whereby cases recommended by the Medical Officer of Health, such as Pneumonia, Ophthalmia, Diarrhoea, etc. have a nurse sent from the Institution and the Corporation pays a fee for each visit.

Many of the Gateshead sick are treated at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-on-Tyne ; Fleming Memorial Hospital, Newcastle-on-Tyne ; Throat and Ear Hospital, Newcastle-on-Tyne ; and the Chest Hospital, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

		<i>Provided by</i>	<i>Nature of Accommodation.</i>
(a) Maternity and Child Welfare.	Greenesfield House.	Gateshead Corporation.	Infant Consultation. Nursing Mother do. Ante-natal do.
(b) Do.	Bensham Settlement	do.	Mothercraft Classes at Bensham
(c) School Clinic	Greenesfield House	do.	Treatment of minor ailments Dental Treatment Refraction for Defective Vision Inspection of Special Cases
(d) Tuberculosis Clinic	do.	do.	General Consultation
(e) Venereal Disease	Royal Victoria Infirmary, N/c.	do.	Consultation and Treatment.

HOSPITALS PROVIDED OR SUBSIDISED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

- (1) Cases of Tuberculosis are sent to Sanatoria as under :—
Barrasford Sanatorium, Northumberland—War Pensioners.
Stanhope Sanatorium, Co. Durham—Men.
Wolsingham Sanatorium, Co. Durham—Women and young girls.
Stannington Sanatorium, Northumberland—Children.
Whinney House, Gateshead—36 Beds.
- (2) Maternity Cases—Maternity Hospital, Newcastle (2 beds, £200 per annum).
- (3) Children (see under 1).
- (4) Fevers—Sheriff Hill Isolation Hospital, provided by the Gateshead Corporation.
Saltwell Hall Isolation Hospital (fevers other than Small Pox).
- (5) Small Pox—Sheriff Hill Isolation Hospital.
At times of severe outbreak Fever cases are transferred to Saltwell Hall, also provided by the Gateshead Corporation, so that Sheriff Hill Hospital is entirely free to deal with Small Pox.

E.—Unmarried Mothers. Illegitimate Infants and Homeless Children.

Cases of these types are admitted to the Union Hospital, High Teams, provided by the Gateshead Union Board of Guardians.

Hostel, Newcastle—Unmarried Mothers.

F.—Ambulance Facilities.

- (a) For Infectious Cases. Two Motor Ambulances are provided by the Corporation.
- (b) Non-Infectious Cases and Accidents. The Gilhespy Motor Ambulance, which is under the control of the Chief Constable and available for the whole of the inhabitants.

There are also available 2 Ambulances under the Order of St. John of Jerusalem and the British Red Cross Society.

1 Private Ambulance.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS AND OTHER FOOD REGULATIONS

STATEMENT OF SAMPLES TAKEN FOR ANALYSIS DURING
THE YEAR 1925.

Samples.	Taken.	Pure.	Adulterated.	Nature and amount of Adulteration.	Action.
FORMAL SAMPLES.					
Milk ...	62	61	1	Deficient in Milk Fat, 1·6%	Vendor cautioned.
Whiskey ...	2	2	—		
Brandy ...	2	2	—		
Total ...	66	65	1		
INFORMAL SAMPLES					
Butter ...	5	5	—	No. 79 appears to have been bleached and retains Nitrogen Compounds equivalent to 4·5 parts of Sodium Nitrate per million—No action.	
Margarine ...	10	10	—		
Lard ...	5	5	—		
Sweets ...	5	5	—		
Cheese ...	4	4	—		
Ice Cream ...	4	4	—		
Flour ...	5	5	—		
Aerated Waters	5	5	—	Slight traces of lead contamination, not in harmful quantities Vendors all cautioned.	
Mustard ...	5	5	—	All samples very poor and had little flavour or pungency—Vendors cautioned and stocks withdrawn.	
	48	48	—		
Condensed Milk Regulations.					
Condensed Milk	6	5	1	No. 16 deficient in Milk Fat 6·6% Further sample genuine—No action taken.	
	120	118	2		
Milk and Cream Regulations and Dried Milk Regulations.					
Preserved Cream ...	—	—	—		
Dried Milk ...	—	—	—		

A very large proportion of our milk supply is derived from sources outside the Borough, and it is therefore specially satisfactory to find that only one out of 66 samples taken was deficient, and that only in a small degree.

The comments made by the Public Analyst in regard to samples of Flour, Aerated Waters, and Mustard, which were not adulterated with a view to prejudice the purchaser, were all brought to the notice of the vendors and through them to the manufacturers. In the case of the Aerated Waters, the makers promised full examination and renewal of any defective tin lined pipes ; in respect to the Mustards the proprietors withdrew the old stock of tins.

The deficient sample of Condensed Milk was taken informally, and a further formal sample, properly stirred was found genuine so that no action was taken.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.

1.—INSPECTIONS.

	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories	28	—	—
Workshops	193	—	—
Workplaces	116	—	—
	337	—	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

	Found.	Remedied.
Nuisances under Public Health Acts :—		
Want of cleanliness	9	9
Want of ventilation	3	3
Overcrowding	—	—
Other Nuisances	3	3
Sanitary Accommodation :—		
Insufficient	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	24	23
Not separate for sexes	2	2
TOTAL	41	40

PRINCIPAL TRADES REGISTERED.

Laundries	6
Bakehouses	38
Bakehouses (Domestic)	47
Tailors	34
Dressmakers	56
Milliners	39
Drysalts	9
Joiners, Builders and Cabinet Makers	28
Cartwrights and Smiths	13
Plumbers	15
Outworkers	79
Others	182
	546

There are 130 Factories,
378 Workshops,
89 Workplaces,
79 Outworkers' Premises,
on the register.

FACTORIES.

Engineers and Metal Workers	37
Motor Engineers and Repairers	8
Cartwrights and Smiths	5
Plumbers	3
Nail, Bolt and Rivet Works	2
Hemp and Wire Rope Works	2
Chemical and Gas Works	2
Glass Works	6
Wood Workers	14
Firewood Sawyers	4
Paper Mills	2
Printers	5
Artificial Stone Works	4
Brewers and Beer Bottlers	6
Mineral Water Works.....	6
Drysalters	5
Pickle and Jam Works	4
Glass and Paint Grinders	3
Bakehouses	3
Laundries	4
Dairy	1
Miscellaneous	24
	150

WORKSHOPS.

Laundries	6
Bakehouses	38
Tailors	34
Milliners	39
Dressmakers	56
Other Wearing Apparel	4
Joiners and Cabinet Makers	28

Cartwrights and Smiths	13
Plumbers	15
Clock and Watch Repairers	12
Cycle and Motor Repairers	7
Picture Framers	6
Photographers	5
Sheet Metal Workers	4
Clay Moulders	4
Printers	4
Drysalters	9
Sauce and Pickle Makers	4
Dairies	2
Boot and Clog Repairers	52
Various Handicrafts	24
Miscellaneous	12

378

WORKPLACES.

Bakehouses domestic	47
Restaurant Kitchens	9
Warehouses	19
Marine Stores	10
Gut Scrapers, etc.	4

89

OUTWORKERS.

Wearing Apparel, etc.	79
----------------------------	----

PREMISES IN WHICH FOOD IS PREPARED FOR SALE.

	Factories.	Workshops.	Workplaces.
Bakehouses	3	38	47
Drysalters and Confectioners ...	5	9	—
Mineral Water and Beer Bottlers	12	—	—
Sausage Makers	3	—	—
Dairies	1	—	2
Botanical Brewers	1	1	—
Pickle and Jam Works	4	4	—
Restaurants	—	—	9
Bacon Warehouses	—	2	—
Tripe Preparers	—	—	3
Fried Fish Shops	—	—	92
	29	54	153
Total—236			

SUSPECTED FOOD POISONING.

On 31st August, 1925, a report was received from a general Medical Practitioner that he had a family stricken with sudden illness, which he suspected to be food poisoning, the result of eating tea-buns.

I immediately proceeded to the home which housed father, mother and 5 children.

In all 5 children the illness commenced about 1 a.m., with severe abdominal pain and pains in the legs accompanied by Diarrhoea and vomiting.

The condition was undoubtedly Acute Gastro-Enteritis, but the cause seemed very uncertain.

A girl of 15 years died at 3 p.m., and a boy of 13 years at 4-45 p.m., just after my arrival at the house and in my presence.

Enquiries into the family menu for the previous day and several days preceding that, lead to the investigation of several foods which had been taken in common, amongst them being

bread, butter, tea-buns, black currant jam, tea, fried fish and chips, vinegar, minced beef, bacon, roast beef, cabbage, potatoes, rice pudding, a mixture of nuts (almonds, brazils and walnuts) and sweets.

No metallic or other poison, which might have been taken by mistake was found in the house.

Samples of blood, urine, and faeces were taken from the living patients and subjected to Bacteriological examination.

Full investigation failed to reveal anything wrong in any of the ingredients of food taken singly.

A Post-mortem was held at which I was present, and on the Coroner's order portions of internal organs were sent to the Durham University College of Medicine for examination for disease producing organisms, after which the organs were passed on to the Public Analyst for the detection of metallic or other poisons.

Full detailed reports were sent to His Majesty's Coroner, from the College of Medicine and from the Public Analyst, copies of which I received.

An adjourned inquest was held on the 17th September, 1925, and a verdict returned that death in each case was due to :—

Gastro-Enteritis set up by eating an unsuitable mixture of foods none of which taken alone would have a harmful effect.

The whole procedure, with reports and explanations, was presented to the Health meeting on 22nd September, 1925, and the Ministry of Health was kept informed of our actions from the notifying of the case to the finding of the verdict. A detailed report was submitted to the Ministry at the same time as to the Health Committee.

HOUSING.

According to the 1921 census 27,769 families were housed in 25,652 units therein called separate dwellings, this pointing to sub-letting to the extent of 2,117 families, which in itself shows the prevalence of overcrowding.

A survey in 1919 led to the conclusion that within the next three years there was need for 1,950 new houses to house and re-house approximately 8,000 people.

According to figures supplied by the Borough Surveyor, 755 houses as shown by the following table had been completed at the end of 1925.

Year	Private Enterprise.	Municipal.	Displaced Tenants.
1920	18	—	—
1921	15	90	—
1922	9	112	—
1923	32	38	—
1924	65	4	—
1925	114	194	64

The census population of 1921 (adjusted) was 125,142, and the estimated population 1925 was 129,000, so that over and above the 1919 estimate there still remains the finding of accommodation for about 4,000 additional people, pointing to the need for at least 2,145 new houses, in other words the progress made up to the end of the year has not materially altered the accommodative conditions.

The greater part of the working-class dwellings consists of flats, *i.e.*, a house of two or three rooms downstairs, and a house of two to five rooms upstairs, usually with separate entrances, back yards and conveniences.

(2) Measures taken or contemplated to meet shortage :—

Erection of additional houses on the Carrs Hill Estate.

Erection of houses on the Bensham Estate (17 acres). 204 houses. 75·0% 3 rooms. 25·0% 4 rooms.

House building by private enterprise is increasing.

An expected greater instalment of all houses in 1926 than in 1925 according to plans already approved.

The general clearing of unhealthy areas must necessarily be slow and gradual.

OVERCROWDING.

There are still many instances where 2 families are living in one tenement, but there is an easement in the number of instances where 3 or more families are housed together.

The practice of a tenant living in two or three rooms, subletting one of the rooms is far too common—and in many cases the sole object is to help paying part or even all the rent of the whole tenement. It may be easy therefore to err in placing all this overcrowding as due to actual shortage of accommodation.

On the whole, therefore, while overcrowding certainly exists to a too great extent, it is slightly less than recorded in our last review (1920).

Principal cases of overcrowding during the year :—

- (a) Tenement of 2 rooms let to husband and wife and 6 children, who in turn sublet a room to husband and wife and 3 children. Of these persons 6 are over and 7 are under 10 years of age. The Sanitary Inspector succeeded in obtaining a separate dwelling for the second tenant.
- (b) Tenement of 2 rooms with 11 of a family, 6 of whom were adults. Four members of the family were under the supervision of the Tuberculosis Officer.
- (c) Family of 9 in 2 rooms.
- (d) Family of 7 in 1 room.
- (e) Family of 7 in a hut, 10 ft. 6 in. $\times$ 8 ft. 6 in. (floor space).

(b) General character of the defects found to exist in unfit houses :—

1. *Site.*

Sloping sites are common owing to the town being built upon ground rising from the river level to 500 feet or more at Sheriff Hill. Especially near the river this has given rise to many houses with at least one wall against the soil often to the full height of the ground floor, as in Hillgate and Pipewellgate, with a slope of one in four.

2. *Congestion on Area.*

Houses crowded together with narrow entrances and courts occur in the older parts of the town causing lack of light and ventilation, and insufficient open areas as instanced in Bottle Bank and High Street areas.

Many formerly self-contained houses have been converted to tenements housing 4 to 6 families where previously one or two families resided.

3. STRUCTURAL DEFECTS.

Decay and deterioration of walls, roofs and timbering, due to age and lack of repairs. Damp walls caused by the foregoing, lack or disrepair of spoutings, dilapidation of floors, doors, ceilings, windows, ranges, flues and chimney stacks ; inadequate light in rooms and staircases. Generally bad states of repair, and inability of many owners to face the very high cost of alterations and repairs necessary.

(c) How far defects are due to lack of proper management and supervision by owners.

Since 1914 the general tendency has been to do only absolutely necessary and unavoidable repairs, and many houses were thus allowed to fall into serious dilapidation and disrepair.

To a certain extent this factor still operates, rendering it quite beyond the ability of some landlords to comply with the requirements of the Acts, however anxious they may be to do their duty by the properties.

On the other hand the destructive dirty tenant is a great factor in causing damage by misusing drains and conveniences, breaking plastering, woodwork, windows, etc., and landlords cannot be blamed if they are unwilling to be continually repairing damages which do not in any way arise from their own neglect.

During 1925 the Sanitary Inspector has been able to get more repairs done than in any one year in the preceding 10 years.

2. (a) General Action taken as regards unfit houses under the Public Health Acts.

Notices under the Public Health Acts were served dealing with defective roofs, spouting, damp walls, and dilapidations of interior walls, floors, windows, stairs, etc.

As a result of such notices, and of many verbal intimations, and interviews with owners and agents a large amount of work was executed comprising repairs to :—

980 house roofs and spouting.
1175 conveniences and outhouses.
268 yard pavings.
514 house drains and interior fittings.
30 water fittings and supply.

(b) General action taken as regards unfit houses under the Housing Acts.

Nil.

3. Difficulties in remedying unfitness, special measures taken or suggested, etc., etc.

Economic conditions have militated against concerted measures to improve the housing conditions.

By consultations of owners and officials and the exercising of reasonable time in which to effect repairs, many properties have been remedied and made reasonably habitable.

In tenemented property, with courts and common yards, it has always been the practice to arrange with the landlord or agent, a list of tenants and their turns for cleaning yards, stairs and conveniences used in common, so that the District Inspector knows to whom to apply in case of default.

Conditions so far as they affect housing as to water supply, closet accommodation, and refuse disposal, together with measures taken during the year in these matters.

(b) Closet Accommodation.

The type of convenience in most common use is a covered dry ashcloset, with cemented receptacle ventilated by chimney shaft to roof, and with sliding or hinged door to back street for emptying.

These were largely introduced during the years 1890-1910 to replace the foul privy middens then generally existing.

The abolition of ashclosets and the substitution of water-closets has already been referred to in this report.

4. Unhealthy Areas.

No new representations were made during 1925.

The year under review has been a rather arduous one, but the work has been lightened by the zeal and loyalty of the staffs of the Health and Sanitary Department and the Infectious Diseases Hospitals, and also by the kindly and helpful advice of my Committee and colleagues in other departments.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

T. MORRISON CLAYTON.

Medical Officer of Health,

TABLE NO. I.

BIRTHS REGISTERED IN THE BOROUGH DURING THE YEAR 1925.

	Total.	Males.	Females.	North Ward.	North East Ward.	North West Ward.	Central Ward.	East Central Ward.	South Central Ward.	West Central Ward.	East Ward.	South Ward.	West Ward.	Work-house.	Transferable Births.		Nett Births.
															In-ward.	Out-ward.	
First Quarter	743	398	345	72	103	119	68	95	22	60	85	61	48	10	—	—	—
Second Quarter	758	392	366	74	92	130	59	101	33	54	86	63	61	5	—	—	—
Third Quarter	690	357	333	74	72	120	42	89	33	45	99	61	43	12	—	—	—
Fourth Quarter	689	347	342	79	92	113	33	92	36	48	83	58	48	7	—	—	—
Total	2880	1494	1386	299	359	482	202	377	124	207	353	243	200	34	317	45	3152
Rate per 1,000 of Population	—	—	—	24.3	30.2	21.8	18.1	27.5	12.3	17.5	23.1	20.9	14.4	—	—	—	24.4

TABLE No. 2.

NETT NUMBER OF DEATHS, arranged according to Ages and Wards, during the Year 1925.

	Total.	Males.	Females	Years 0—1.	Years 1—2.	Years 2—3.	Years 3—4.	Years 4—5.	Years 5—10.	Years 10—15.	Years 15—20.	Years 20—35.	Years 35—45.	Years 45—65.	Years 65 up.	North Ward	North East Ward	North West Ward	Central Ward	East Central Ward	South Central Ward	West Central Ward	East Ward	South Ward	West Ward	Workhouse	Sheriff Hill Hospital	Children's Hospital	Trans-ferable Deaths.	
																													Inward	Outward
First Quarter ...	540	275	265	98	47	24	10	7	12	13	12	36	29	112	140	43	60	82	32	65	29	39	63	43	24	57	1	2	62	29
Second Quarter	459	241	218	81	59	21	8	4	14	12	7	39	39	92	83	47	66	64	31	41	27	30	39	28	32	50	3	1	50	17
Third Quarter	361	187	174	73	27	6	9	2	8	7	12	20	27	81	89	24	49	42	27	40	20	22	49	33	20	30	—	5	61	24
Fourth Quarter	450	239	211	89	33	4	8	4	12	4	10	45	35	90	116	51	40	65	39	46	32	31	40	33	25	45	—	3	72	18
Totals.....	1810	942	868	341	166	55	35	17	46	36	41	140	130	375	428	165	215	253	129	192	108	122	191	137	101	182	4	11	245	88
Rate per 1,000 of Population	14.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13.4	18.0	14.4	11.6	14.0	10.7	10.3	12.5	11.8	7.3	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE No. 3.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1925
AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.*		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Un- corrected Number.	Nett.		Number.	Rate	of Non-residents Registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Number.	Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1920	128309	4136	4214	32·8	1788	13·9	77	170	471	111·	1881	14·6
1921	126700	3612	3779	29·8	1758	13·8	84	155	402	106·	1829	14·4
1922	127300	3232	3437	26·9	1871	14·6	79	177	362	105·	1969	15·4
1923	128200	3111	3372	26·3	1538	11·9	64	174	302	89·	1648	12·8
1924	128700	2959	3170	24·6	1694	13·1	70	209	327	103·	1833	14·2
1925	129000	2880	3152	24·4	1653	12·8	88	245	341	108·	1810	14·0

* “ Transferable Deaths ” are deaths of persons who, having a fixed or usual residence in England or Wales, die in a district other than that in which they resided.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of
area covered by water)—3,132

Total population at all ages 125,142 { At
Total families or separate occupiers.. 25,652 { Census of
1921.

TABLE No. 4.

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1925.

Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various Ages under 1 year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 week.	1—2 Weeks.	2—3 Weeks.	3—4 Weeks.	Total under four weeks.	1—3 Months.	3—6 Months.	6—9 Months.	9—12 Months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.		
All Causes.	Certified	75	16	14	8	113	41	70	42	48	314	M.	F.
	Uncertified .	16	3	1	—	20	3	1	2	1	27	14	13
												M.	F.
Smallpox		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chicken Pox		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	8	13	7	6
Scarlet Fever		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough		—	—	1	1	2	5	3	5	7	22	10	12
Diphtheria and Croup . . .		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1
Tuberculous Meningitis .		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—
Abdominal Tuberculosis..		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
Other Tuberculous Diseases		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningitis, not Tuberculous		—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	3	2	1
Convulsions		6	2	2	1	11	3	4	2	1	21	11	10
Laryngitis		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis		—	—	1	1	2	7	16	9	11	45	24	21
Pneumonia		1	—	—	1	2	7	16	13	10	48	23	25
Diarrhoea		—	—	—	—	—	1	5	2	1	9	6	3
Enteritis		—	—	1	—	1	6	11	2	6	26	18	8
Gastritis		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Syphilis		—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	—	6	3	3
Rickets		—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—
Suffocation (overlying) . .		—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—
Injury at Birth		2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	2	—
Atelectasis		6	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	6	5	1
Congenital Defects		5	—	—	—	5	2	1	—	—	8	7	1
Premature Birth		55	8	5	2	70	3	1	—	—	74	41	33
Atrophy, Debility, and Marasmus		9	8	3	2	22	8	7	1	—	38	27	11
Other Causes		7	1	2	—	10	1	1	1	2	15	9	6
TOTALS		91	19	15	8	133	44	71	44	49	341	198	143

Nett Births in the Year—Legitimate, 3038 ; Illegitimate, 114.

Nett Deaths in the Year of Legitimate Infants, 325 ; Illegitimate Infants, 16.

TABLE No. 6.

ANALYSIS OF DEATHS, ACCORDING TO CAUSES, AGES, SEX, AND WARDS, DURING THE YEAR 1925.

Causes of Death.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Yrs. 0—1	Yrs. 1—2	Yrs. 2—3	Yrs. 3—4	Yrs. 4—5	Yrs. 5—10	Yrs. 10—15	Yrs. 15—20	Yrs. 20—35	Yrs. 35—45	Yrs. 45—65	Over 65	North.	North East.	North West.	Central.	E. Central.	S. Central.	W. Central.	East.	South.	West	Workhouse.	Sheriff Hill Hospital.	Children's Hospital.	Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the Borough.	Transferable Deaths.		
																														Inward	Outward	
Certified	1724	894	830	314	163	53	34	17	44	35	40	136	126	361	401	151	202	243	123	184	104	118	175	132	98	179	4	11	262	242	82	
Uncertified.....	86	48	38	27	3	2	1	—	2	1	1	4	4	14	27	14	13	10	6	2	4	4	16	5	3	3	—	—	3	3	6	
Enteric Fever.....	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Smallpox.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	16	16	3	4	3	4	9	4	3	—	—	—	—	4	—	
Measles	73	44	29	13	32	13	5	4	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	
Scarlet Fever	6	—	6	—	1	2	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	6	11	8	1	4	1	3	7	1	3	4	—	—	4	—	—	
Whooping Cough	49	23	26	22	17	3	3	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	
Diphtheria and Croup	5	4	1	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	5	2	4	1	—	—	2	1	2	3	—	—	—	5	2	
Influenza.....	22	10	12	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	5	5	8	—	5	2	—	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	
Erysipelas	3	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Meningitis	15	11	4	3	5	—	3	—	—	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	1	3	2	—	1	1	3	2	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	
Organic Heart Disease	112	44	68	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	1	10	10	44	42	8	11	18	6	5	11	9	13	9	10	12	—	—	17	26	7	
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	161	88	73	—	2	2	2	—	7	10	12	62	25	30	9	14	17	13	9	12	9	10	25	15	7	30	—	—	42	13	13	
Tuberculous Meningitis.....	20	10	10	1	3	—	3	2	7	1	3	—	—	—	—	4	—	2	—	6	—	1	2	2	—	2	—	—	1	4	5	
Other Tuberculous Diseases	28	15	13	1	3	2	4	—	2	5	3	3	1	3	1	2	1	1	6	4	1	—	1	1	2	1	6	—	3	13	3	4
Rheumatic Fever	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	1	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	14	6
Cancer, malignant disease	135	66	69	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	11	70	52	4	11	21	14	7	13	13	17	10	11	14	—	—	20	14	6	
Bronchitis	174	92	82	45	19	5	3	2	1	—	1	5	7	28	58	18	22	17	12	23	11	19	17	14	6	15	—	—	22	3	9	
Broncho Pneumonia	131	66	65	43	49	15	4	2	1	—	1	2	—	8	6	12	25	31	7	29	3	5	9	3	3	2	—	—	5	12	1	
Pneumonia (all other forms)	65	42	23	5	3	3	1	1	5	1	2	5	10	22	7	7	3	13	7	7	2	4	3	3	6	10	—	—	10	10	0	
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs.....	23	10	13	—	5	2	1	—	1	—	—	1	3	7	3	1	4	6	—	1	3	1	5	1	1	—	—	—	—	5	—	
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	44	28	16	35	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	9	10	—	6	1	3	3	2	—	2	—	—	5	—	2	
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	8	3	5	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	1	1	2	—	1	1	1	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	7	1
Alcoholism	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Cirrhosis of Liver	3	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	52	25	27	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	4	2	27	14	4	5	2	5	2	3	3	2	4	—	22	—	—	31	5	9	
Puerperal Fever.....	11	—	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	4	1	—	2	—	3	—	3	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	2	5	—	
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	12	—	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	5	4	1	—	1	—	2	—	4	2	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	2	7	1	
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	121	76	45	120	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	24	20	16	4	17	4	8	13	7	4	4	—	—	6	17	3	
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicides	55	37	18	1	4	—	—	—	4	4	4	11	7	10	8	3	7	9	2	6	2	3	11	4	1	6	—	—	9	25	7	
Suicides	18	11	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	4	6	3	3	1	2	1	2	1	—	—	4	3	1	3	—	—	4	4	2	
Other Defined Diseases.....	440	223	217	50	11	7	3	3	4	4	4	13	32	99	210	33	40	47	46	44	35	31	38	47	37	40	—	2	54	68	19	
Diseases Ill defined or Unknown.....	18	9	9	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	9	5	2	2	1	2	2	2	1	3	2	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	
TOTALS	1810	942	868	341	166	55	35	17	46	36	41	140	130	375	428	165	215	253	129	192	108	122	191	137	101	182	4	11	265	245	88	

TABLE No. 5.
NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

DISEASE.	Total.	Males.	Females.	AGE GROUPS.												WARDS.												DEATHS BY AGE GROUPS.														
				Under 1 year	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	65 upwards	North	North East	North West	Central	East Central	South Central	West Central	East	South	West	Work- house	Children's Hospital.	All Ages	0—1	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	65 and upwards.		
Smallpox	87	49	38	1	1	1	—	1	13	12	15	20	7	16	—	13	10	11	5	26	—	3	1	6	5	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever.....	391	184	207	5	11	26	30	37	138	94	24	23	2	1	—	22	41	37	36	28	37	33	42	36	67	5	7	6	—	1	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Diphtheria	137	44	93	1	3	6	1	6	37	20	25	25	9	4	—	12	23	21	14	16	9	8	10	10	14	—	—	5	—	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	
Typhoid Fever	4	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	
Puerperal Fever	9	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	1	—	2	—	4	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	4	1	—	—		
Erysipelas	56	21	35	3	1	—	—	—	3	2	5	8	4	25	5	7	4	10	1	7	5	4	5	3	3	7	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	
Acute Polio-Myelitis.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Encephalitis Lethargica	7	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	3	—	—	1	3	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	20	12	8	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	4	1	2	—	3	4	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chicken Pox	759	376	383	59	73	70	62	86	369	28	10	2	—	—	—	110	64	107	55	98	28	50	102	94	37	14	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	178	116	62	5	3	6	12	9	32	10	15	32	19	30	5	19	5	45	8	8	6	19	24	4	13	27	—	65	5	3	3	1	1	5	1	2	5	10	22	7	—	
Tuberculosis :—	1648	806	842	94	92	109	105	139	592	167	95	121	44	80	10	186	151	242	120	189	86	121	190	154	141	61	7	95	6	5	6	2	1	6	3	2	14	16	27	7	—	
(a) Pulmonary	264	135	129	—	4	4	3	7	35	29	29	76	33	38	6	36	33	31	25	34	7	17	32	15	22	12	—	161	—	2	2	2	—	7	10	12	62	25	30	9		
(b) Other Forms	174	101	73	3	11	11	11	9	46	35	16	20	8	3	1	25	25	22	14	20	9	10	16	15	12	6	—	48	2	6	2	7	2	9	6	3	1	3	1	1		

COUNTY BOROUGH OF GATESHEAD.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1925.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF GATESHEAD.

SANITARY DEPARTMENT,
GREENESFIELD HOUSE,
GATESHEAD.

TO THE HEALTH AND SANITARY COMMITTEE.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Report upon the work done by the Sanitary Department during the year 1925.

It has been a notable year in our annals, as in addition to all the ordinary varied duties devolving upon the Staff, the Scheme for the conversion of waterclosets of all privies in the Borough was commenced, and continued without intermission through the year.

This important sanitary reform, for which the town is so well adapted, has already resulted in a notable improvement in the cleanliness of the streets, and in the diminution of offensive smells, both on the premises, and during the process of removing the privy contents.

The full benefit will be felt when the whole town has been changed over, and the work is proceeding rapidly to that end.

I have to thank the Committee for their continued confidence and support. My Staff have worked hard and efficiently and given me valuable assistance during an arduous year.

Yours faithfully,

ROBERT W. WILKINSON,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Statement and Statistics of Work Done.

COMPLAINTS RECEIVED.

Complaints by householders	486	
Referred complaints by Health Visitors and Tuberculosis Department	60	
Referred by Relieving Officers	4	
		550

DEALT WITH.

Referred to Cleansing Department	93	
Referred to Borough Engineer's Department	7	
Enquired into by Sanitary Staff	450	
		550

It is worth noting that complaints as to scavenging have fallen from 227 in 1920 to 93.

SANITARY INSPECTION.

The inspection of dwellings, service of notices, the remedy of defects and nuisances form the most important part of sanitary work. Routine house to house inspection has been curtailed to a great extent owing to the Privy Conversions Scheme, but as a result of the latter, repairs to closet erections, yard paving and other external matters bulk largely.

Total inspection for nuisances and re-visits as to repairs and progress (Table I.)	7330
Total nuisances dealt with by written notices and letters (Table II.)	5582
Visits and revisits for purposes of Privy Closet Conversions	16386

NOTICES SERVED.

Informal Notices, Sanitary	1912	
„ „ Conversion Repairs	1296	
		————— 3208
Statutory Notices, Sanitary	85	
„ „ Closet Conversions	4312	
„ „ „ „ (Ashpans) ...	949	
		————— 5346
		—————
Total	8554	—————

INSPECTION AND REPAIR OF DWELLINGS.

It was not found possible to make any detailed inspections for the purpose of dealing with any areas or properties under the Housing Acts, but by informal action a good number of unfit dwellings which required extensive repairs were put in order.

In hand at close of year last	46
Detailed inspections recorded	—
Other Inspections	2469
Houses not in a reasonably fit state of repair.....	164
Closing Orders	—
Houses Closed	—
Demolition Orders	—
Demolished without orders being made	—
Put in reasonable order after statutory notice	—
Put in reasonable order after informal action.....	188
In hand at close of year	22

TENTS, VANS, SHEDS, ETC.

A report was presented to the Committee drawing attention to the steady increase in the number of families living in caravans, huts, and tents, many of which were of the most unsatisfactory construction. A Sub-Committee made an inspection of the principal sites and whilst it was agreed that the conditions were in most cases such as called for action they were faced with the great scarcity of housing accommodation of a character such as the tenants could afford. The question is still sub-judice, and will no doubt be carefully considered further.

SANITARY CONVENIENCES.

The decision to put into operation the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, Section 39, requiring the conversion of all privy closets into waterclosets, threw upon my Department a great weight of additional work outside the usual routine, requiring

(1) Careful inspection of each existing convenience, and notices to owners requiring repairs. This was essential to guard against subsequent allegations of damage when the conversion was being carried out, which is being done by direct labour employed by the Council.

(2) Records of every house showing the existing type of closet, the name and address of the owner, the number of tenants, etc. These proved invaluable for checking the service of notices and progress of work, and also to the Borough Treasurer for issuing the accounts, and for the purposes of the Land Charges Act Register.

(3) The issue of the Statutory notices for each conversion, accompanied by explanatory circulars as to mode of payment allowed, and, (in Areas 1, 2, and 3) notices requiring the provision of suitable ashbins.

(4.) The marking up from these records, on large scale ordnance plans supplied by the Borough Surveyor of every house with street number, showing the number of conversions to be done, existing type of closet, and number of ashbins to be supplied. The Borough was divided up into 19 Areas, arranged with a view to facilitate the gradual movement of men, plant and transport along the main routes, with some regard also to taking first those blocks of properties of somewhat poorer class, and which seemed to call for early attention.

(5) The provision and keeping in stock of materials such as lead water pipe, cistern bearers, overflows, etc.

All these matters received my special attention, as upon it depended the continuous progress necessary to ensure the completion of the Schemes within the period fixed by the Ministry of Health, under a grant obtained through the Unemployment Grants Committee.

With these preliminaries, work commenced in Area 1 on March 16th, and the progress made is shown by the following summary of Areas 1 to 5a.

	Existing accommoda- tion prior to conversion.	After conversions.
Ashclosets	5746	4
Privies	276	1
Ashpits	220	12
Pail Closets	4	—
Waterclosets	709	6709
Ashpans	531	7286

4,312 Statutory notices, with accompanying explanatory circulars were issued. A card index of each property was also made.

In the first 3 Areas, ashpans were not included as part of the Scheme, and 949 notices were served to provide suitable ashpans. The Committee later decided to include and provide the ashpans, and to pay half cost of those already installed. As was to be expected, a great deal of my time was taken up in interviewing and corresponding with owners and agents who desired fuller information as to probable costs, etc.

The work proceeded rapidly, and although the Ministry of Health had allowed until April, 1926, for the completion of the first Scheme of 6,000, they were all done by November 23rd, 1925, that is in 36 weeks, an average of 166 per week, or 30 per working day. The practical supervision of the workmen was placed in the charge of a capable foreman whose organizing ability has been of great value.

A further Scheme of 8,000 was commenced without delay, and up to the end of the year in Areas 5a, 6, and 7, 898 closets were completed, making a total of 6,898 conversions for the year.

Apart from the Closet Conversion Scheme, the following improvements were made :—

Foul Ashpits (9) and Privies converted to w.c.'s	14
Ashclosets (1)	1
Additional waterclosets provided	8
Watercloset basins renewed	49
Watercloset cisterns renewed	40
Ashpans provided or renewed	158

DRAINAGE.

4" pipes.	6" pipes.	Manholes and Traps.	Scullery Sinks.	Waste Pipes.	Gullies and Gratings.	Vent and Soil Pipes.
1265 ft.	58 ft.	36	11	68 ft.	51	229 ft.

**SANITARY CONDITION OF THEATRES, PICTURE HALLS,
ETC.**

The Licensing Justices require a certificate from each applicant as to the sanitary conditions of the premises and for this purpose inspections were made as under :—

Theatres and Music Halls	1
Picture Halls	9
Billiard Saloons	3
Halls with Dancing Licences	15
Total premises	28
Total visits	65
Certificates granted	28

Work done as per reports sent to the owners :—

Premises cleansed and decorated	1
Conveniences and urinals cleansed	19
Conveniences and urinals put in order ...	8
Additional w.c. provided	1
W.C. lighted and ventilated	1
Dressing room ventilated	1

PREMISES UNDER BYE-LAWS.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

The Common Lodging Houses in the Borough are licensed annually in March under the Gateshead Corporation Act, 1903, and regulated by the Byelaws adopted in 1891.

At the beginning of the year there were 10 houses on the register, but as two of these were in the Cannon Street Area, their licences were not renewed.

The eight remaining houses, with their accommodation, etc.,
are—

Name of Registered Keeper.	Situation of House.	No. of Lodgers.		No. of Beds.		No. of Waterclosets.	Men and Women, or Men only.
		Licensed for	Provided for	Double.	Single.		
1. Jackson, Mrs. ...	16-22, Bridge Street	66	66	—	66	4	Men.
2. Donnelly, F. ...	15, Mirk Lane ...	99	99	—	99	5	Men.
3. Smith, T. ...	15-19, Smiths Yard	99	99	—	99	5	Men.
4. Macfarlane, Mrs.	10, Church Street...	117	115	—	115	6	Men.
5. McGuiggan, J. ...	3, Church Stairs ...	49	49	7	35	6	Men and Women.
6. Bain, Mrs. ...	Dobson's Court ...	57	57	8	41	3	Men and Women.
7. Shipley, Mrs. J. G.	Hawk Yard ...	47	46	—	46	3	Men.
8. Boyle, A. ...	7, Brandling Street	80	77	—	77	4	Men.
TOTAL ...	8 Houses ...	614	608	15	578	36	6 Men only. 2 Men and Women.

The persons using these lodgings during the year as per
figures furnished by the Chief Constable :—

Men.....	152924
Women	9095
Children	1693
	163632

a nightly average of 448.

The houses generally were well managed and kept in clean
and sanitary condition ; none of them were erected specially
for the purpose, and are all in a district which has been marked
down for consideration as an unhealthy area, notice to this effect
being endorsed upon the annual licences.

HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS.

There are 54 tenement houses, in which 187 rooms are let as lodgings. They are generally known as furnished rooms, but the amount and character of the furniture qualifying them for this description varies very considerably, and never errs on the generous side.

Insanitary conditions such as choked waterclosets and drains, dirty rooms and bedding, and neglect to cleanse the common stairs and yard frequently arose and were dealt with.

The housing shortage has led to exorbitant rents being charged for these single rooms in houses which have never been intended for such letting. For example, in such a house, one room has a range and oven, the others (having been bedrooms only) have the usual small fire. No extra water taps or sinks, and no extra coal or pantry accommodation are provided. These matters are not dealt with in the present Byelaws, and there is urgent need for the adoption of the new series drawn up by the Ministry of Health.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

	1924	1925
Tallow Melters	3	3
Gut Scrapers and tripe preparers	3	3
	6	6

These premises are all situate in populous areas and were kept under frequent observation. Considering the class of materials dealt with, there was very little cause for complaint. At the tallow works, boiling is done at nights, but when the vats are being run off, some smell unavoidably arises, especially in foggy weather.

There are 95 fried fish and chip shops in the Borough. Many applications are made to the Department for sanction to commence such shops, and although advantage is always taken of the opportunity to inspect the premises and suggest improvements, it is unfortunate that the Council have no Byelaws regulating the trade, as they would be a useful addition to our powers. Marine stores too require similar control.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

	Jan., 1920.	Jan., 1925.	Dec., 1925.
Registered	17	14	14
Licensed	2	4	3
	19	18	17

The situation and construction of many of the slaughter houses is not satisfactory. The premises have been improved as far as practicable, and with more stringent inspection, few complaints have been made against the occupiers. The Newcastle and Gateshead Joint Abbatoir Committee held several meetings, and sites in both towns have been inspected and reported upon.

2,155 pigs from Newcastle markets were brought into the Borough for slaughter and the licences were checked during the course of inspection.

MEAT REGULATIONS.

The Public Health Meat Regulations, 1924, which came into operation on April 1st, 1925, formed the subject of a special report to the Committee in which recommendations were made as to the means to be adopted to give them effect. All butchers in the town were circularised and an agreement come to with them as to the hours to be fixed during which slaughter should take place in order that supervision and inspection of meat might be ensured and facilitated. The hours were fixed as follows :

Monday	12-0 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Tuesday	8-0 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Wednesday	8-0 a.m. to 12-0.
Thursday	{ 1-0 p.m. to 5-0 p.m., during the months of July, August and September.
Friday	

Slaughter at any other times, and emergency slaughter for injury or illness to be notified in accordance with the Order.

These Regulations were well received, and have proved valuable to the public in securing a sound, disease-free supply of meat ; the more stringent methods of inspection during the hours of slaughter and afterwards, has had good results as shown in the list of unsound meat condemned.

The requirements as to cleanliness in shops and vehicles have also been given attention, and it is now the general practice not to expose meat outside the shops, and to keep the windows closed against dust, flies, mud splashings, and other contaminations.

It is hoped that the cordial co-operation of the trade, shown in these and other matters will continue and extend.

UNSOUND FOOD.

As a result of the inspections of Slaughter Houses, butchers' shops, and other premises, the following was surrendered and condemned as being unfit for human consumption.

MEAT.

Tubercular disease	4755 lbs.
Other diseases	310 lbs.
Putrefaction	1064 lbs.
Total weight, 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ tons.	

ORGANS.	Tuberculosis & T.B. abscesses.	Other diseased conditions.
Cattle	123	45
Sheep	1	5
Pigs.....	16	9
	140	59

The “ other conditions ” include Septic Pneumonia, Actinomycosis, Melanosis, Liver cysts, Swine Erysipelas, etc.

KNACKERS' YARD.

1,349 horses, 197 cattle, 316 cows and 15 other carcasses were disposed of at Mr. Dobson's Knackers' Yard, Old Fold.

The premises stand at a great distance from any dwellings and give no offence to householders. They were kept in good order and regularly limewashed.

They form a necessary and useful means of “ Refuse disposal ” for worn out, diseased, and injured animals, and practically everything is utilised.

BAKEHOUSES.

Factory Bakehouses	3
Workshop Bakehouses	38
Domestic Bakehouses	47
	—
	88
	—

There are no underground bakehouses in the Borough. One was commenced during the year, but on the attention of the occupier being drawn to the regulations, he removed to other premises.

Frequent inspections were made to see that the premises and sanitary conveniences were kept in a cleanly and sanitary condition ; little cause for complaint was found and verbal intimation was usually sufficient to have any nuisance or defect remedied.

MILK SUPPLY—COW BYRES.

There were 15 cow byres on the register at the close of the year, and the average number of cows kept was 170.

Periodical visits were made to see that limewashing, cleansing, and removal of manure were attended to. Several improvements were effected in an endeavour to obtain “ clean milk ” and every opportunity was taken to urge attention to cleanliness of cows, utensils, and byres, and the personal cleanliness of the milkers, and those handling the milk.

TUBERCULOSIS ORDER, 1925.

This order came into operation on September 1st, and has already had beneficial results. T. R. Jarvie, Esq., was appointed as Veterinary Inspector, and in co-operation with him, monthly inspections were made of all cow byres, and of the cows kept.

One cow was condemned and slaughtered, being in an advanced state of Tuberculosis, and compensation was paid on the basis of one quarter of the valuation made before slaughter.

MILK PURVEYORS.

There are 232 Milk Purveyors in the Borough of whom 140 are registered for the sale of milk in bottles only.

Most of the milk is train-borne from various sources in Yorkshire, Durham, and the North country generally, whilst a proportion comes from farms in districts immediately adjoining the Town.

The general quality of the milk is good, and out of 62 samples taken, only one was deficient.

Attention was directed to the necessity for thoroughly rinsing out the empty churns before returning them by rail to the farms.

Six licences were granted to one firm with two dairies for the sale of Grade "A", Certified, and Grade "A" (Tuberculin Tested) Milk.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS, ETC.

120 samples of food were submitted to the Public Analyst (Dr. J. T. Dunn, F.C.S.)

	TAKEN.	PURE.	ADULTERATED
Milk	62	61	1
Butter, Lard, Margarine and Cheese	24	24	—
Spirits.....	4	4	—
Other Articles	24	24	—

CONDENSED MILK REGULATIONS.

	TAKEN.	PURE.	ADULTERATED
	6	5	1

No samples were taken under the Milk and Cream, and Dried Milk Regulations.

IMPORTATION OF FOOD STUFFS.

At the Corporation Quay, Hillgate, the following food stuffs, fruit, etc., were landed from foreign ports, any doubtful consignments being referred to the Tyne Port Sanitary Authority.

In all, 382,639 bags, barrels, and cases were unloaded.

Corned Beef	1798 cases.
Sausage Casings	1 cask.
Eggs	3023 cases.
Rice	715 bags.
Fruit	47011 barrels and cases.
Vegetables	192777 crates and bags.
Sugar	133694 bags and cases.
Salt	3000 bags.
Mustard	62 barrels.
Yeast	327 cases.
Others	231 cases.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES (ANIMALS) ACTS.

Swine Fever Orders.

There were no cases of Swine Fever during the year.

Under the Swine (Regulation of Movement) Orders, the following were dealt with by inward and outward licences.

248 store pigs into the Borough.

91 store pigs from Maughan's Mart.

15 store pigs out of the Borough.

29 fat pigs to Slaughter Houses out of the Borough.

2177 fat pigs to Slaughter Houses from Newcastle.

1319 fat pigs to Slaughter Houses from Maughan's Mart.

Piggeries were frequently inspected as to Sanitary conditions, and for the purpose of checking licences received.

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE ORDERS.

Whilst the Borough remained free from any outbreaks, cases in other parts of the country gave cause for much anxiety and watchfulness, especially at the Cattle Mart.

OTHER ORDERS.

There were no cases of Parasitic Mange or Anthrax, but two cases of suspected Rabies in dogs were reported. Upon investigation by your Veterinary Inspector they proved negative.

CATTLE AUCTION MARTS.

The animals passing through Messrs. Maughan's three Auction Marts, Tyne Road East, were as follows :—

For Slaughter.

Fat Cattle	8564
Sheep	25423
Calves	118
Pigs.....	1319
	———— 35424

For Store Purposes.

Store Cattle	20052
Store Sheep	2061
Dairy Cows	1378
	———— 23491
	—————
	58915
	—————

as against 21,447 in 1924.

One of the Marts is “ Specially Authorised ” for the sale of freshly landed Irish Cattle, which are licenced from the various landing ports on the West coast.

277 copies of Licences were sent to me by the Inspectors of the Ministry of Agriculture, and these were checked against the arrival of 8,785 cattle. After sale, 637 licences were granted for their removal to various parts of the country, where they are subject to detention and inspection.

Veterinary Inspection.

It was decided during the year, on the recommendation of the Ministry of Agriculture, that in place of the system of employing a Veterinary Inspector to examine animals sold at the Marts only during outbreaks in adjoining districts that he should be engaged to attend every sale. Mr. T. R. Jarvie, M.R.C.V.S., was therefore appointed to do this in conjunction with the work

under the Tuberculosis Order, and other Disease Orders. The large number of animals distributed from the Gateshead Marts all over the two Northern Counties made such an arrangement for constant supervision very necessary.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT.

In the general course of Sanitary work 14 cases were dealt with where rats had gained access to dwellings. The cause almost invariably was defective drains. These were overhauled and relaid with cement joints, and other work done such as repairing floors, yard paving, and renewing broken floor ventilators.

During the annual National Rat Week a large poster was displayed throughout the town notifying the public of their responsibilities under the Act, and offering the assistance and advice of the Department in dealing effectually with any cases reported. In all, 99 visits were made.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

347 visits were made to cases of infectious disease notified to the M.O.H., and enquiries instituted as to housing conditions, means of isolation, milk supply, etc.

Small Pox cases occurred practically throughout the year and 3,058 visits were made to homes of known contacts, and to obtain names and addresses of any others. In this way, several previously unknown cases were discovered.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACTS.

At the end of the year there were on the Register :—

Factories	130
Workshops.....	435
Workplaces	21
Outworkers	79
	665

41 various defects were dealt with, including 24 of unsuitable or defective watercloset accommodation, and 2 where the closets for females were not separated and screened from those used by the males.

14 Notices were sent by H.M. Inspector of Factories notifying various nuisances, and the necessary action was taken to have them remedied.

Yours faithfully,

ROBERT W. WILKINSON,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE I.

SUMMARY OF PRINCIPAL INSPECTIONS MADE.

	Reason of Inspection.	No. of Inspections
Dwelling Houses.	1 Defects of roofs, spouting, and dilapidation of external walls and internal plastering, floors, windows, etc.	2469
	2 Outhouses and yards	392
	3 Tents, vans and sheds	268
	4 Overcrowding	16
	5 Dirty premises, yards and closets	133
Drainage.	6 Defective drainage	530
	7 Choked drains and w.c.'s	318
	8 Rats on premises	99
Conveniences.	9 Privycloset walls, roofs, doors and seats	16386
	10 W.C. basins, etc., defective	297
	11 Foul ashpits and privies	199
	12 Ashpans defective or insufficient	2375
Water Supply.	13 Absence of water and defective fittings	73
Stables.	14 Dirty Stables, manure heaps	70
Registered premises	15 Milk purveyors	162
	16 Cowbyres	57
	17 Slaughter houses	1857
	18 Offensive trades	116
	19 Knackers' Yards	12
	20 Common Lodging Houses	63
	21 Houses let in lodgings	101
Food Inspection.	22 Sampling food and water	207
	23 Unsound food condemnation	113
	24 Cattle Marts	165
	25 Food landed at Quay	91
Contagious Diseases (Animals)	26 Foot and Mouth Disease Orders	55
	27 Swine Fever Orders	315
	28 Anthrax Orders	—
	29 Parasitic Mange Orders	2
	30 Tuberculosis Orders	30
	31 Other Orders	14
	32 Piggeries	124
Infectious disease.	33 Visits to notified cases	347
	34 Visits to small pox cases and contacts	3058
	35 Special enquiries (food poisoning, etc.)	4
Factory and Workshops Acts.	36 Factory and workshops inspections	337
	37 Factory and workshop nuisances	91
Theatres, etc.	38 Theatres and Cinemas	65

TABLE II.

SUMMARY OF NUISANCES DEALT WITH BY WRITTEN NOTICES UNDER
THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS AND BYE-LAWS.

Nature of Nuisances dealt with and Work required to be done.										Number of Nuisances
1.	Roofs, spouting, walls, etc., dilapidated (to repair or renew)	...	...							464
2.	Windows, doors, stairs dilapidated (to repair or renew)	...	...							129
3.	Interior walls, floors, ceilings, etc., damp and defective (to repair)	...								302
4.	Chimneys, flues, pots and ranges, etc., defective (to repair)	...	...							146
5.	Outhouses dilapidated (to rebuild or repair)	...	...	...	...					75
6.	Ashpits and privies foul and dilapidated (to replace by waterclosets)									14
7.	Ashpits, privies and ashclosets defective (to repair doors, seats, etc.)	...								545
8.	Ashpits, privies and ashclosets defective (to repair roofs and walls)	...								1531
9.	Insufficient closet accommodation (to provide)	...	...	...	...					8
10.	Watercloset fittings—basins, cisterns and pipes defective (to repair or renew)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	78
11.	Watercloset buildings, doors and seats dilapidated	...	...	...						44
12.	Absence of ashtubs (to provide galvanized iron ashpans)	...	...							158
13.	Drains and waterclosets choked (to clear obstructions)	...	...	...						140
14.	Waterclosets without supply of water	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
15.	Drainage defective (to repair)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	57
16.	Drainage defective (to renew with inspection chambers, traps, gullies, waterclosets, etc.)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
17.	Yard walls and doors delapidated (to repair)	...	...	...	...					89
18.	Sinks, waste pipes, gullies, etc., defective (to renew)	...	...	...						53
19.	Yard paving defective (to relay or repair)	...	...	...	...					842
20.	Absence of water to houses, or defective fittings (to renew)	...	...							11
21.	Rooms dirty (to cleanse and limewash)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
22.	Tenement limewashing—passages, staircases, walls, yards, etc., dirty (to cleanse)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	907
23.	Foul accumulations of refuse (to remove)	...	...	...	...					15
24.	Poultry keeping (to cleanse or remove)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
25.	Stable manure (to remove periodically)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
26.	Overcrowding (to abate)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
27.	Rat infested premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
TOTAL										5582
Written notices served Informal ... 1912										} 1997
Statutory ... 85										

Privy Conversions and Ashpans are not included.

TABLE III.

DWELLING HOUSES.

REPAIR WORK DONE.

DWELLINGS.

Defective roofs and spouting overhauled and repaired	...	...	...	...	292
Defective floors overhauled and repaired	...	...	...	...	114
Ventilation provided, subsoil removed, etc.	...	...	...	...	18
Exterior walls repaired and pointed	...	...	...	...	105
Chimney flues and stacks, ovens, and ranges repaired and renewed	...	...	...	...	110
Stairs, doors, window frames and cords repaired	...	...	...	...	104
Interior walls, ceilings and plastering repaired	...	...	...	...	198
Sculleries repaired	...	...	...	...	39

CONVENIENCES AND OUTHOUSES.

Ashcloset outer and inner doors, and seats repaired and renewed	...	...	...	...	273
Ashcloset walls and roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	641
Ashpit and privy doors replaced and repaired	...	...	...	...	1
Ashpit and privy converted to waterclosets (excluding Conversion Scheme)	...	...	...	...	14
Ashclosets converted to waterclosets	do.	do.	do.	...	1
Watercloset doors, seats, walls and roofs replaced and repaired	...	...	...	...	38
Ashpans provided	...	...	...	...	158
Coalhouses and Outhouses rebuilt and repaired	...	...	...	...	42
Additional waterclosets provided	...	...	...	...	8

DRAINAGE.

Choked gullies and branch drains cleared	...	...	...	...	173
Choked waterclosets and branch drains cleared	...	...	...	...	53
New gullies and gratings provided	...	...	...	...	51
Branch drains relaid and repaired	...	...	...	...	69
Manhole covers, vent shafts and soil pipes provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	36
Scullery sinks and lavatory basins renewed	...	...	...	...	11
Scullery sinks and waste pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	42
Watercloset basins renewed	...	...	...	...	49
Cisterns, flush pipes, and water fittings repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	40
Water provided to waterclosets	...	...	...	...	12

YARDS, PAVING, ETC.

Yard paving renewed and repaired	...	...	...	...	228
Yard walls rebuilt	...	...	...	...	15
Yard doors replaced	...	...	...	...	22
Poultry erections removed	...	...	...	...	3

WATER SUPPLY.

Water supply renewed and fittings repaired	...	...	...	...	30
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